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Preliminary: U.S. Imports for Consumption of Steel Products

January 2003

The U.S. Census Bureau, through the Department of Commerce, announced today that preliminary January steel imports were **\$1.0 billion (2.2 million metric tons)**. This was virtually the same value and a decrease of 0.3 million metric tons from the preliminary December totals of \$1.0 billion (2.5 million metric tons).

The December to January change in steel imports, based on metric tonnage, reflected decreases primarily in wire rods and hot rolled sheets. Increases occurred primarily in reinforcing bars and hot dipped galvanized sheets and strips. Monthly changes in steel imports reflected decreases primarily with China, Korea, Venezuela and Turkey. Increases occurred primarily with Mexico and Canada.

The year to date final statistics through December 2002 showed steel imports of 29.7 million metric tons, an increase of 2.3 million metric tons from the 27.4 million metric tons through December 2001. The largest commodity increases were in blooms, billets, and slabs; and hot rolled sheets. The largest commodity decrease was in cold rolled sheets. The largest country increases were with Canada, Brazil and Mexico. The largest country decreases were with Japan and Korea.

Notes:

The data in this report are preliminary and subject to revisions.

Analysis of recent months for steel product imports indicates the value of preliminary data should equal about 96 percent of the final value reported in the regular monthly trade statistics report. Preliminary data reported for individual steel categories and at the individual country of origin level have been less consistently predictive of the final data reported in the regular monthly trade statistics. For further details visit the Foreign Trade Division web site at: www.census.gov/foreign-trade/www/. On the web site you can access product by country and country by product tables.

The next release is March 25, 2003